

# The 20 Greatest Ever Romance Novels, According to Goodreads Reviews

'Tis the season, after all.



By [McKenzie Jean-Philippe](#)

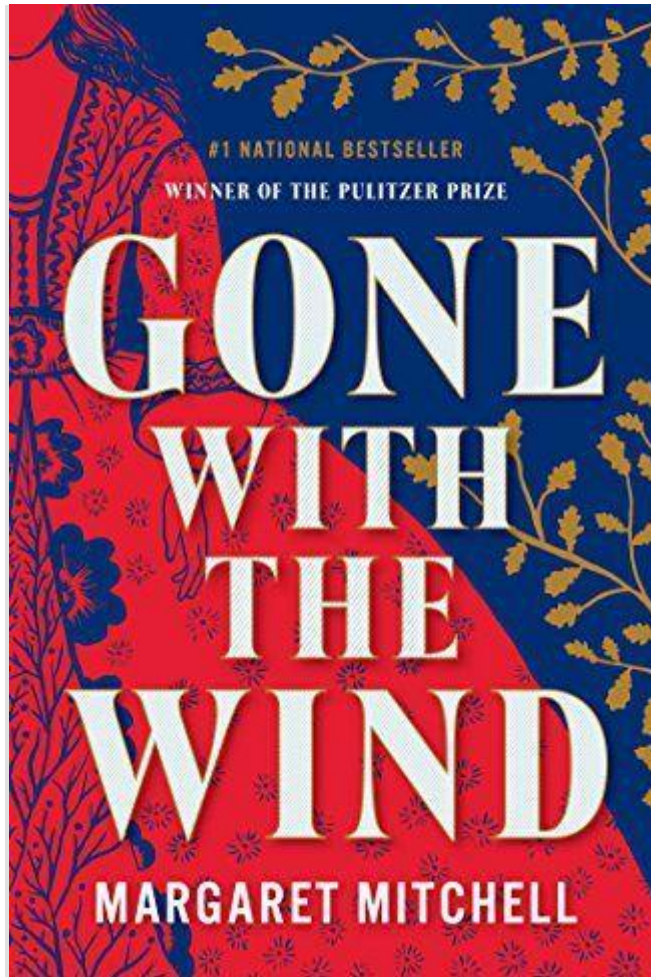
Jan 31, 2019



COURTESY

We all need a little love in our lives, and one way to get it is in the pages of swoon-worthy novels. With the help of Goodreads reviews, we've found the most popular romance books ever written, based on the high ratings from hundreds of thousands of bibliophiles. The list is a romantic's dream: a title from Queen Nora Roberts, classics like *Jane Eyre* and *Gone With the Wind*, and hot contemporary stories that are guaranteed to make you blush. Whatever your taste, this GoodReads ranking is the place to start if you're in the mood for amour.

**1** *Gone With The Wind* by Margaret Mitchell

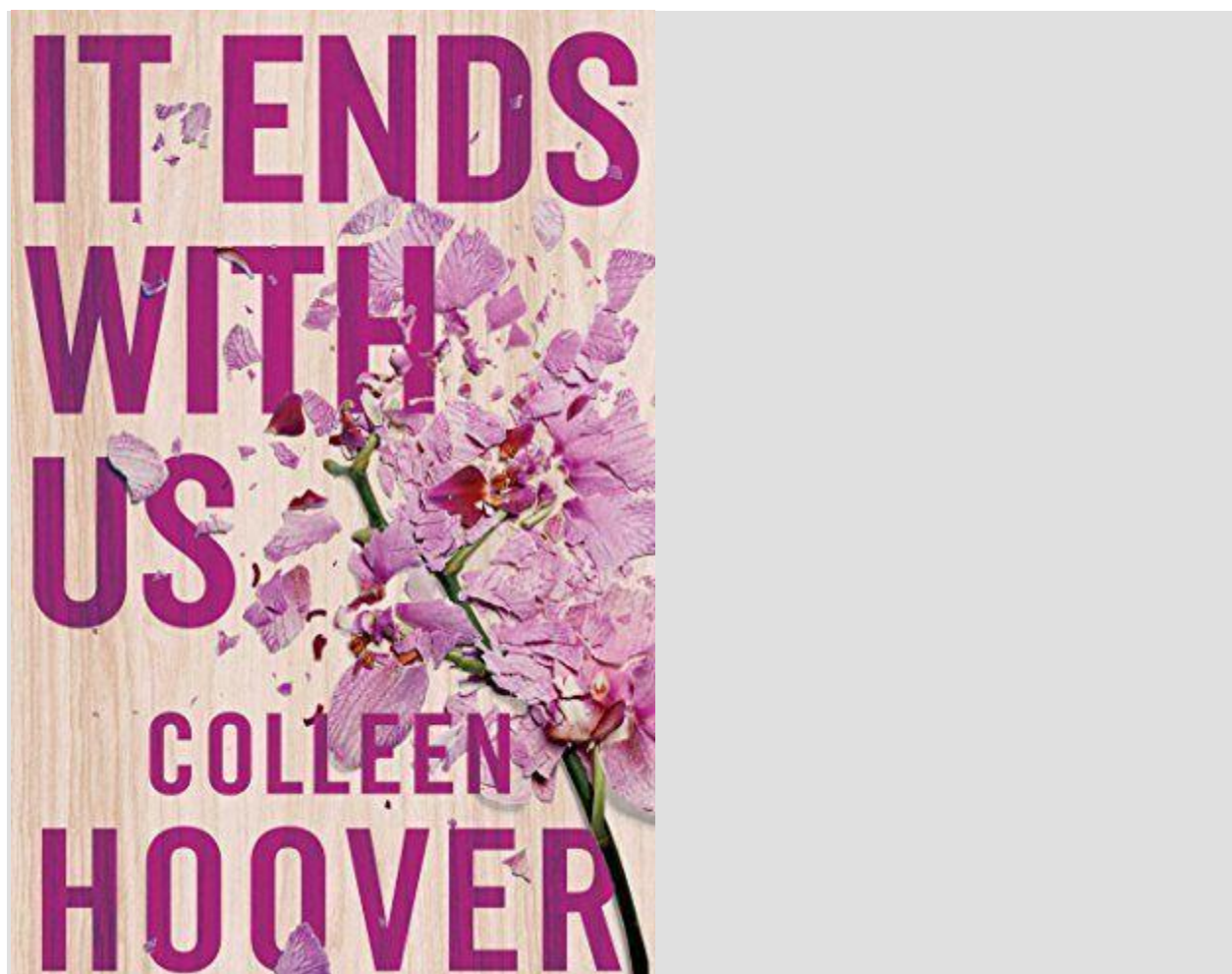


\$13.72

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This 1937 Pulitzer-winning epic novel—which Goodreads calls "one of the most popular books ever written"—tells the story of headstrong leading lady Scarlett O'Hara. The Southern Belle fights for the love of her life *and* for the preservation of her family's plantation in the midst of the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era.

**2***It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover



\$13.08

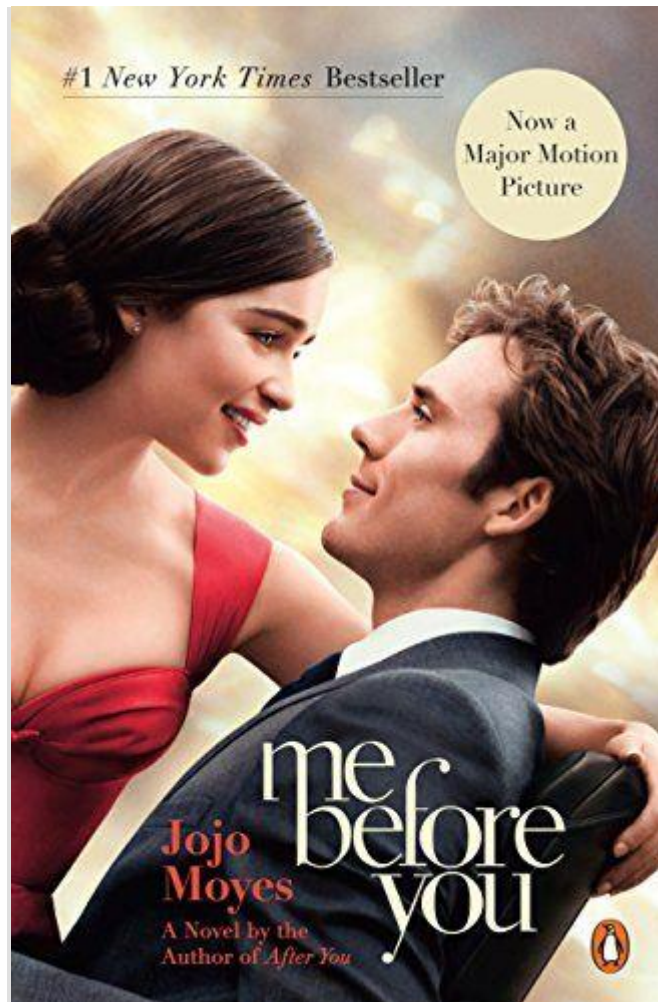
[SHOP NOW](#)

As 2016's Goodreads' Choice Winner for Romance, Hoover's *It Ends With Us* is what many fans called a "powerful" and "unexpected" story that follows main character, Lily, through the tumultuous stages of an abusive relationship.

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**3***Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes





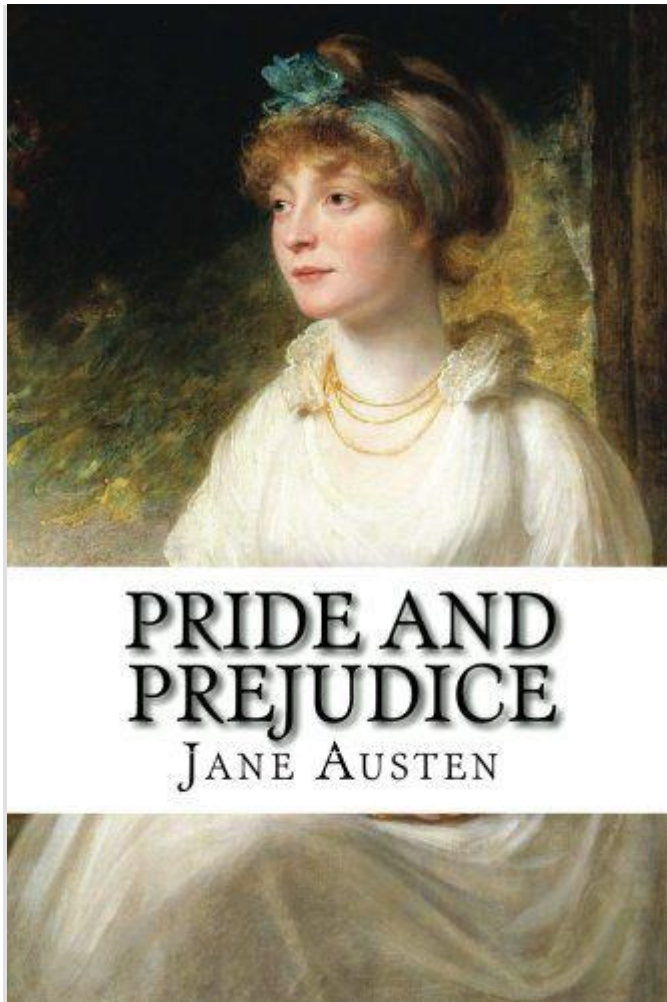
~~\$16.00~~

**\$9.78 (39% off)**

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In the first of the beloved *Me Before You* trilogy, after desperately taking on a new job, "ordinary girl" Louisa Clark falls in love with her boss, wheelchair bound-grump Will Traynor. The story was made into a 2016 movie, starring Sam Claflin and *Game of Thrones*' Emilia Clarke.

**4** *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen



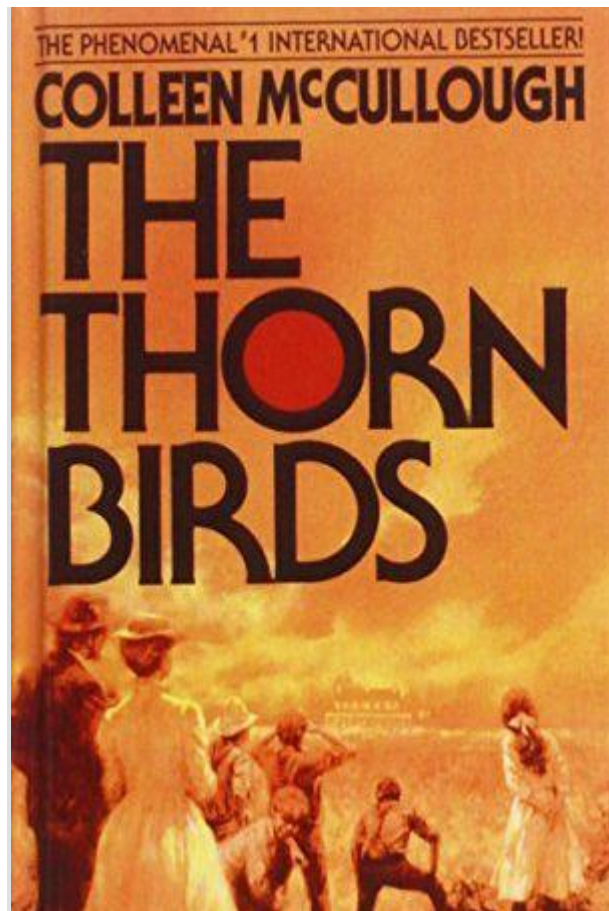
\$9.45

[SHOP NOW](#)

Arguably one of the greatest romance novels of all time, Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* follows the opinionated heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, as she frequently finds herself at odds with her beau, the uptight Mr. Darcy. Keira Knightley earned an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Bennet in 2006.

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**5***The Thorn Birds* by Colleen McCullough

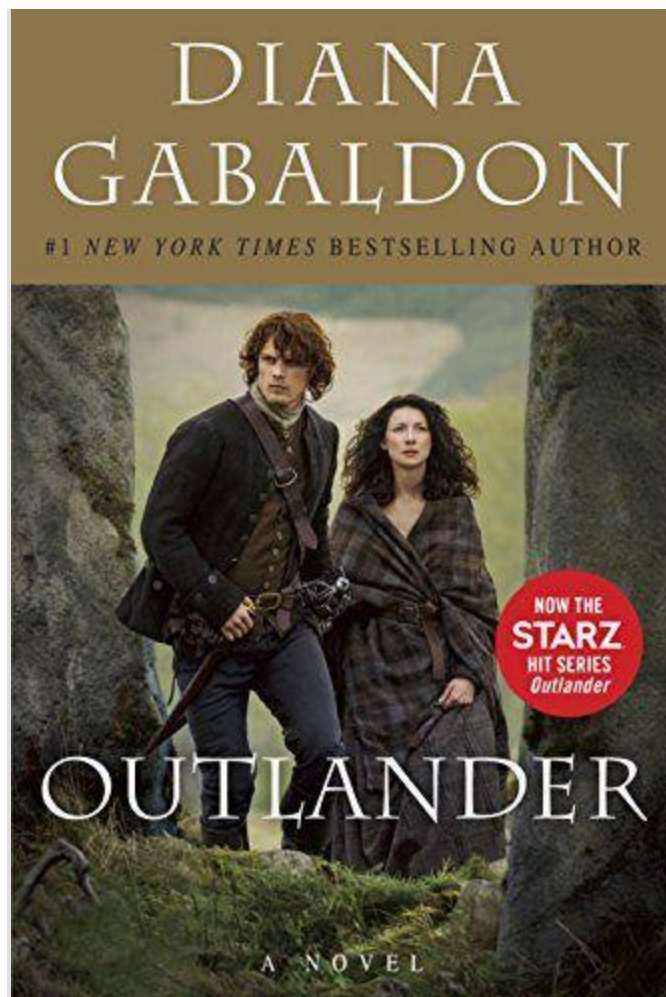


\$16.99

[SHOP NOW](#)

Another staple of the genre, *The Thorn Birds* is a romantic saga set in the Australian outback, following the Cleary family across decades. The central story focuses on only-daughter Meggie, and the forbidden love she shares with a priest.

**6** *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon



~~\$18.00~~

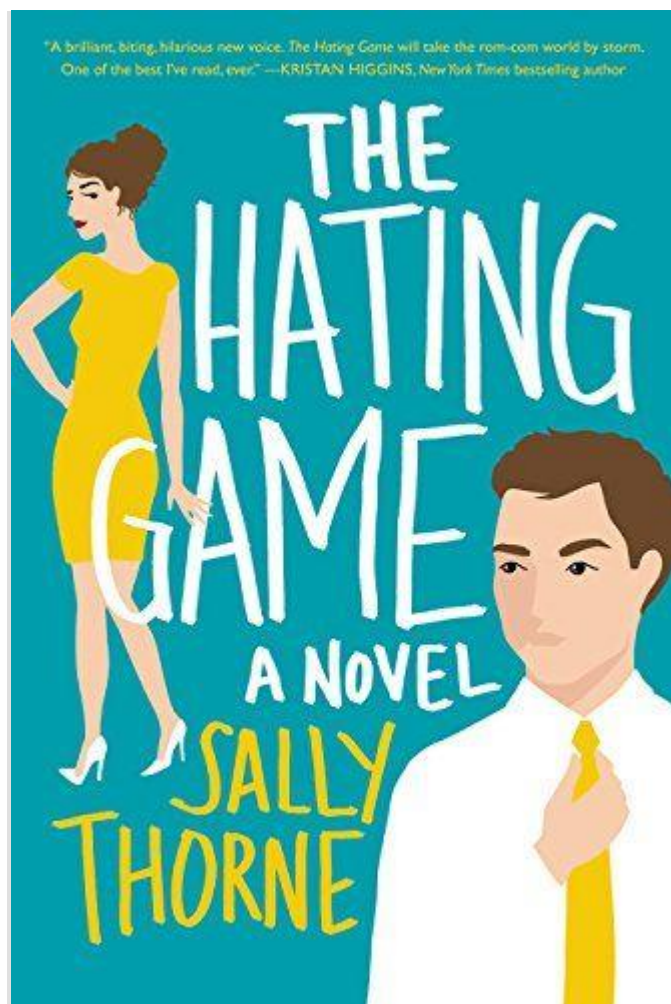
**\$11.29 (37% off)**

[SHOP NOW](#)

Currently a steamy, hit series on Starz, the first in this eight-book saga starts off with lead character, Claire, somehow traveling into the past to 1740s Scotland. It's there that she begins a passionate relationship with a young warrior named Jamie Fraser.

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**7***The Hating Game* by Sally Thorne





~~\$14.99~~

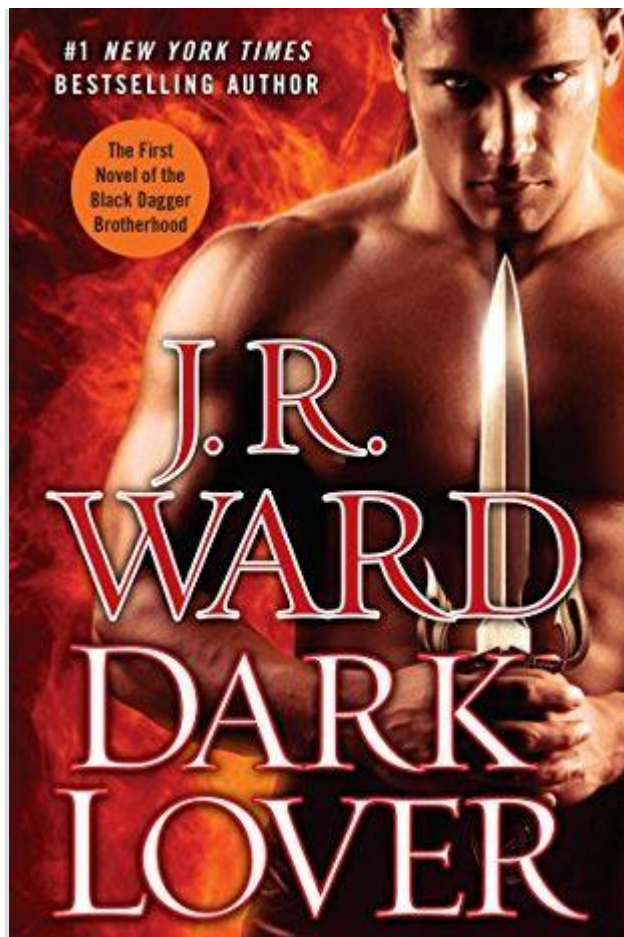
**\$12.11 (19% off)**

**SHOP NOW**

In Thorne's bestselling debut novel, Lucy Hutton and Joshua Templeman are both executive assistants at a publishing company. Lucy is bubbly and quirky, and Joshua is meticulous and a bit more reserved. They hate each other. Like, *really* hate each other. Or, do they?

**8** *Dark Lover* by J.R. Ward





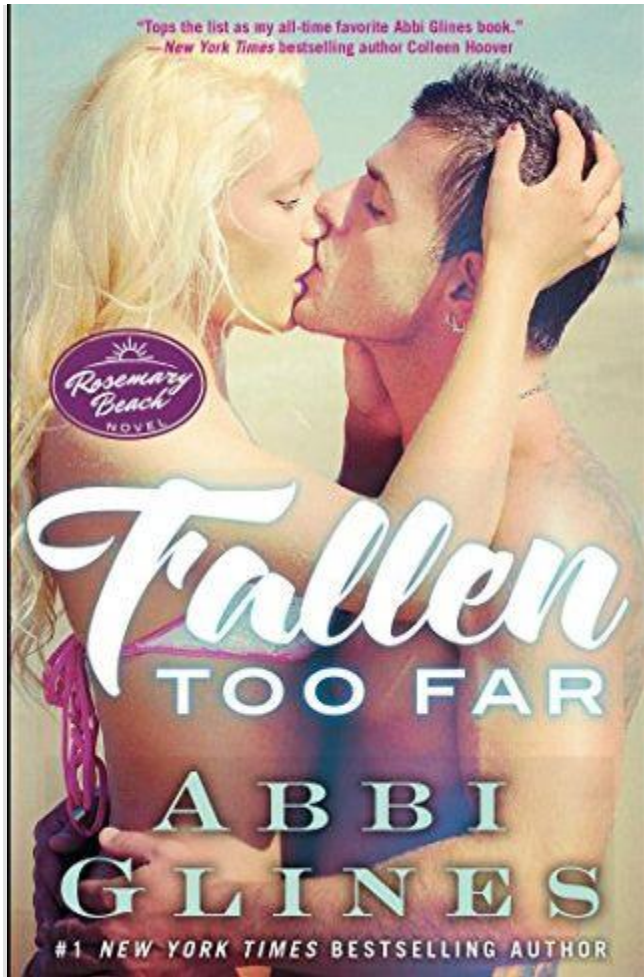
\$7.78

[SHOP NOW](#)

The first of J.R. Ward's ongoing 16 novel series, *Black Dagger Brotherhood*, follows purebred vampire leader, Wrath, as he unexpectedly falls in love with half-breed Beth, who's quickly introduced to an intriguing paranormal world.

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**9***Fallen Too Far* by Abbi Glines



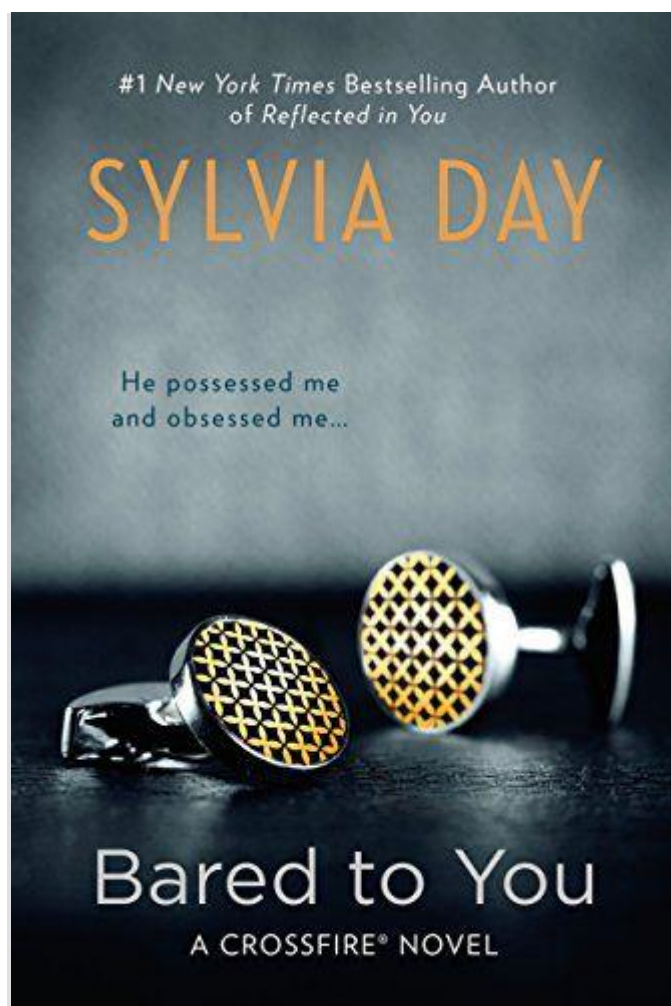
~~\$16.00~~

**\$12.47 (22% off)**

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A modern romance that introduced fans to Glines' beloved Rosemary Beach series, *Fallen Too Far* follows Blaire, a tough, Alabama girl, and Rush, a surly rocker's son, as they succumb to their undeniable chemistry.

**10** *Bared to You* by Sylvia Day



~~\$16.00~~

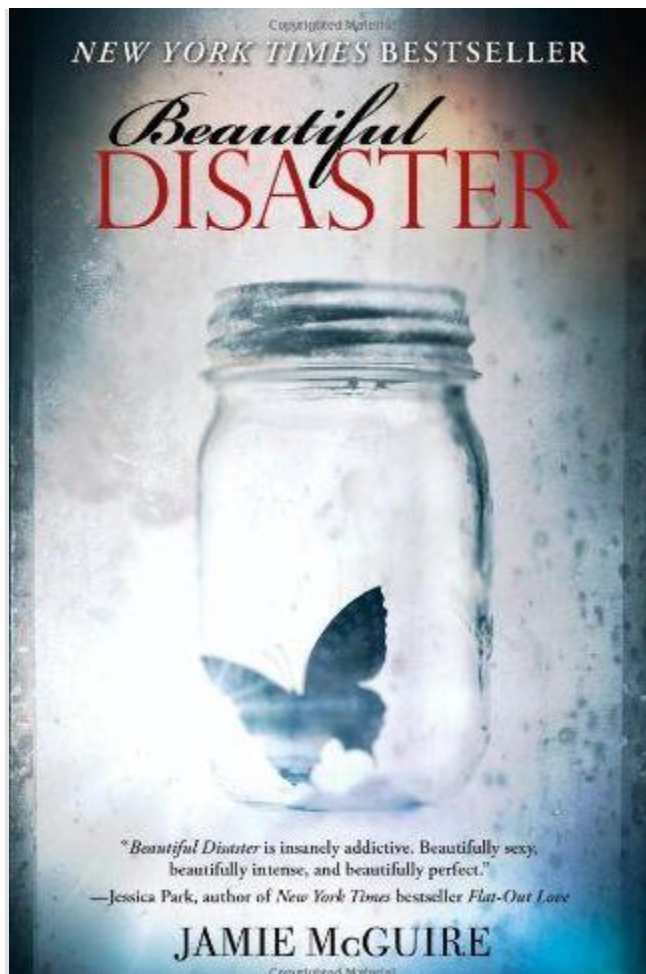
**\$7.57 (53% off)**

[SHOP NOW](#)

The first of five books in this erotic series—which many Goodreads reviewers compare to the NSFW *50 Shades of Grey* saga—this story focuses on main characters Eva and Gideon. Both are childhood sexual assault survivors, but they work to overcome their trauma in the hopes of having a healthy, stable relationship.

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**11** *Beautiful Disaster* by Jamie McGuire



~~\$16.99~~

**\$10.99 (35% off)**

**SHOP NOW**

In this contemporary romance, Abby Abernathy tries to stay true to her new "good girl" image as she starts college. But the tough, tattooed Travis Maddox makes that difficult, especially after they enter a bet that could push them both to their limits.

**12** *This Man* by Jodi Ellen Malpas

~~\$15.00~~

**\$12.00 (20% off)**

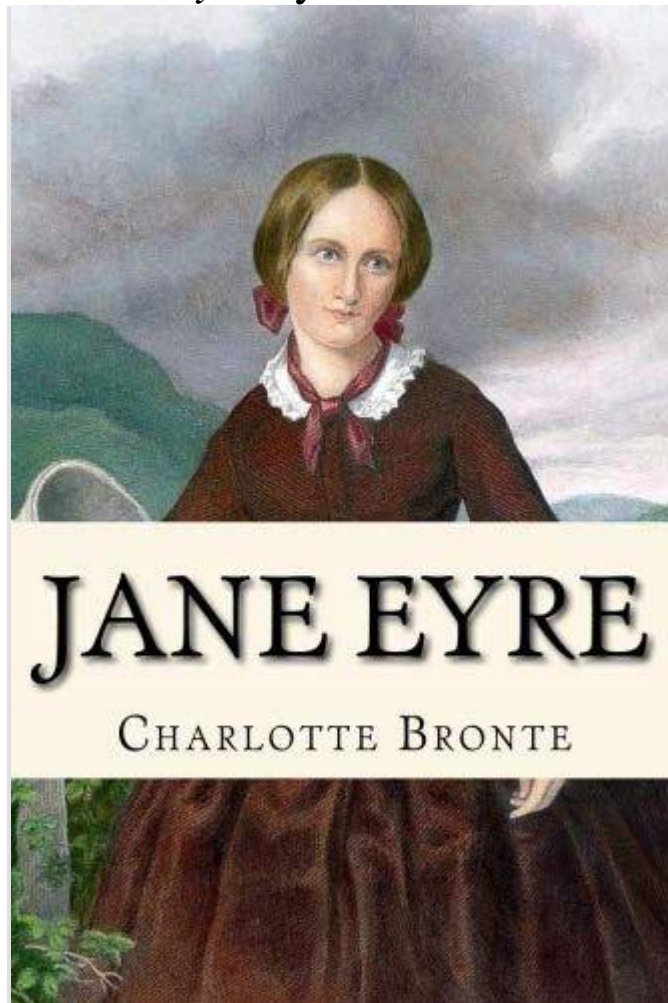


[SHOP NOW](#)

An introduction to an addictive trilogy, in *This Man*, interior designer Ava O'Shea is seduced by a new handsome playboy client. She doesn't *want* to want him, but we all know how that usually works out.

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**13** *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte



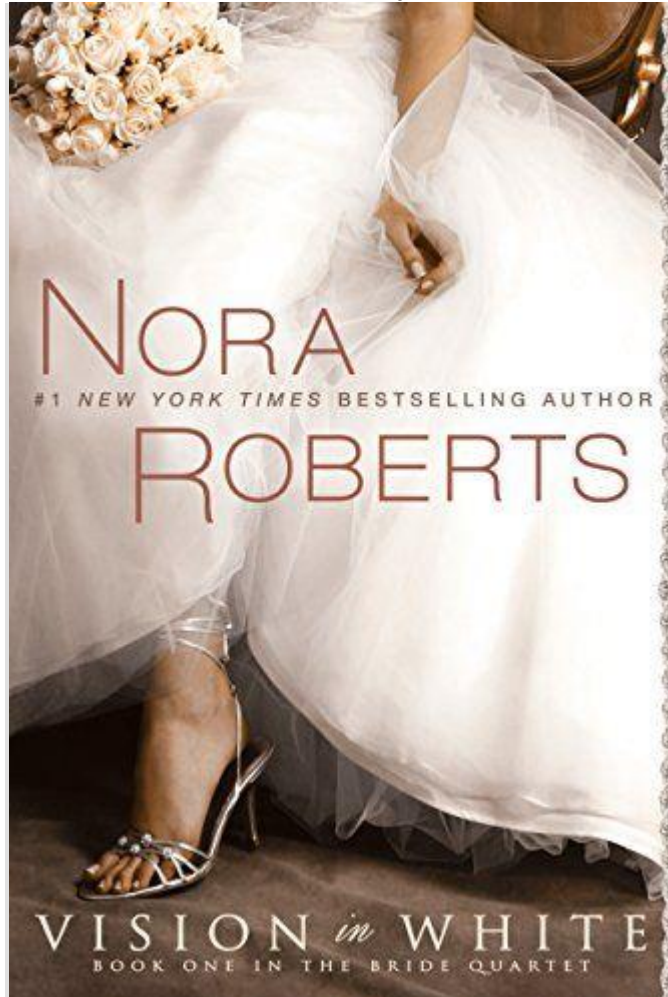
\$9.89

[SHOP NOW](#)

By exploring themes such as religion, sexuality, and classism, *Jane Eyre* was a groundbreaking novel during its

19th century release. Still revered as one of the genre's greatest books of all time, Bronte's story of title character Jane, and her maturing emotions and love for her broody boss Mr. Rochester, is one that readers still have a hard time putting down.

#### 14 *Vision in White* by Nora Roberts



\$13.99

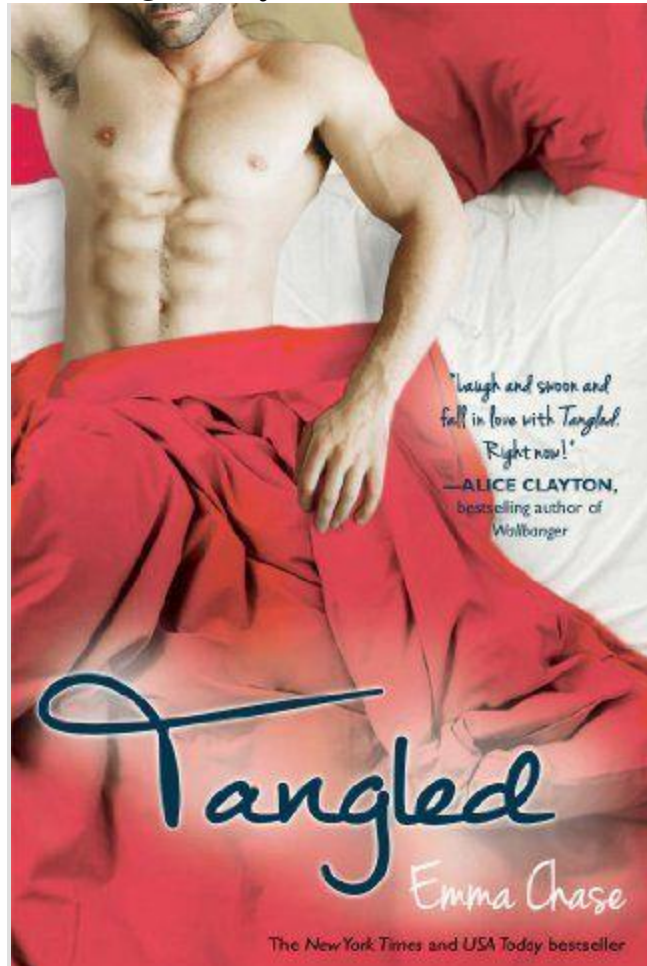
[SHOP NOW](#)

Written by popular novelist Nora Roberts, *Vision in White* is a favorite in Roberts' 200-plus story repertoire. In the first of the *Bride Quartet* novels, wedding

photographer Mac Elliot finds herself falling for a bride-to-be's brother, English teacher Carter Maguire. And what's supposed to be a "casual fling" turns into much more.

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## 15 *Tangled* by Emma Chase



~~\$15.00~~

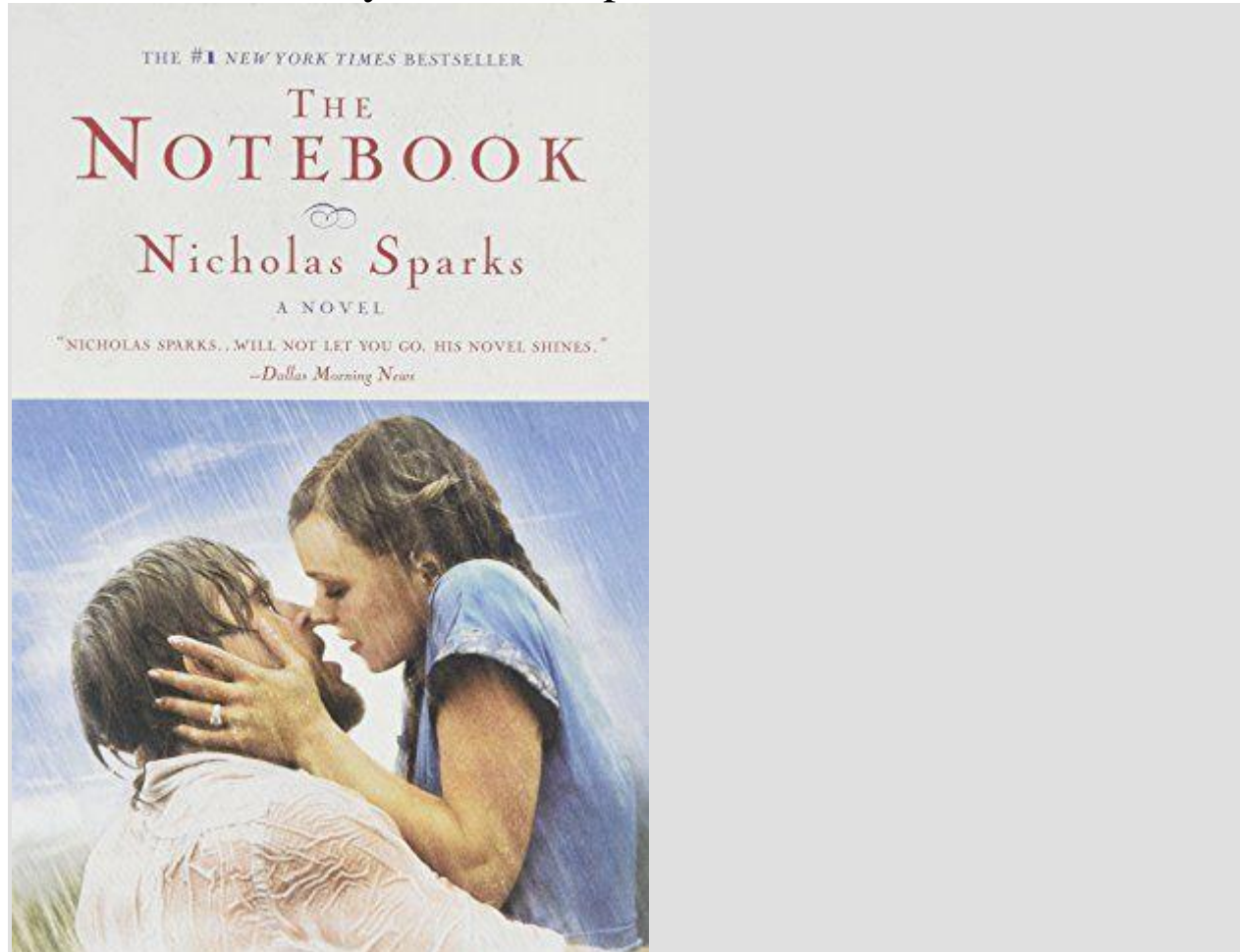
**\$10.70 (29% off)**

[SHOP NOW](#)

Goodreads' Choice Winner for romance in 2013, *Tangled* is a classic enemies-to-lovers tale in which

rich, dashing businessman Drew finds his weakness in his new co-worker, the ambitious and beautiful Katherine.

## 16 *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks



~~\$14.99~~

**\$8.80 (41% off)**

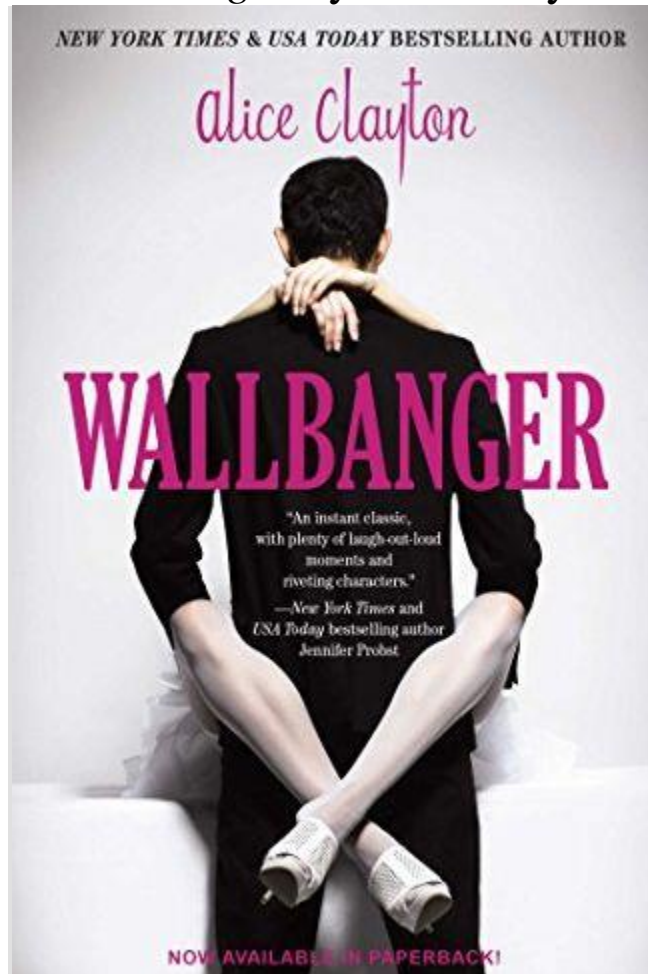
[SHOP NOW](#)

In one of Nicholas Sparks' most well-known books, we're treated to the enduring, timeless love of Allie and Noah who, despite years of separation, always find their way back to each other.

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## 17 *Wallbanger* by Alice Clayton



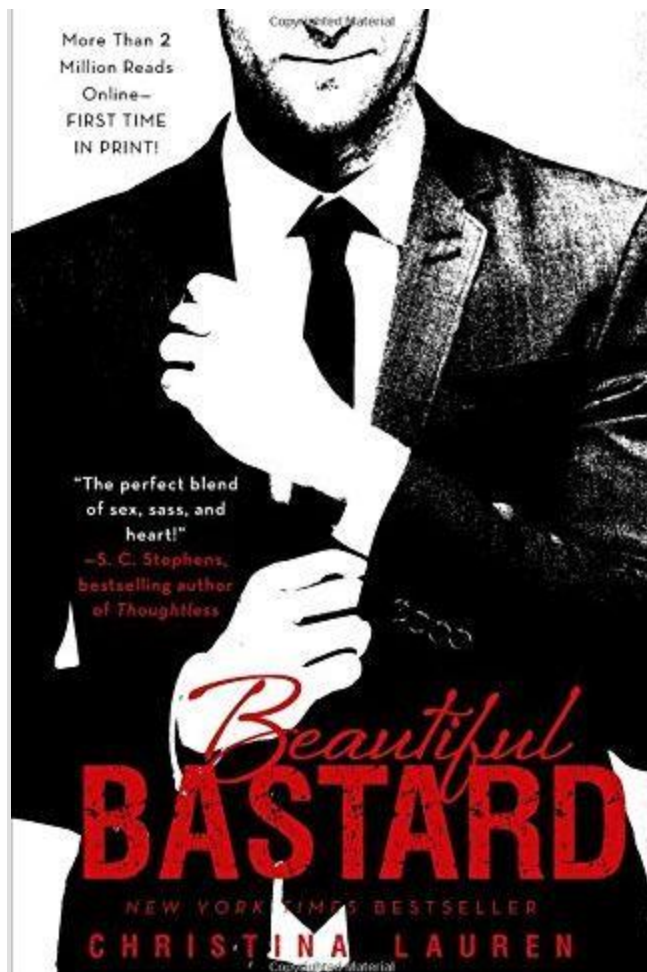
~~\$16.99~~

**\$13.58 (20% off)**

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As the title might imply, the main character of this comedic, erotic tale, is consistently kept awake by her neighbor's noisy sexual exploits. When she finally confronts him, tensions between the two run high, and suddenly, the guy next door doesn't seem so bad after all.

## 18 *Beautiful Bastard* by Christina Lauren



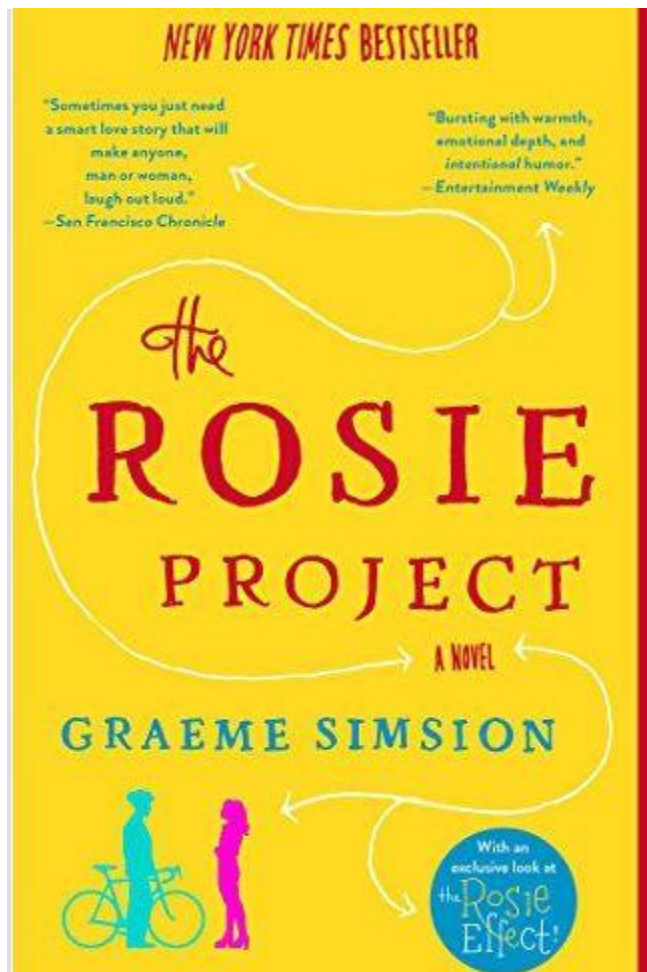
\$13.81

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Originally published online as *Twilight* fanfiction, the first in this five-book saga follows Chloe Mills and her boss Bennett Ryan as they begin a sexy office affair that turns into so much more.

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**19***The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion



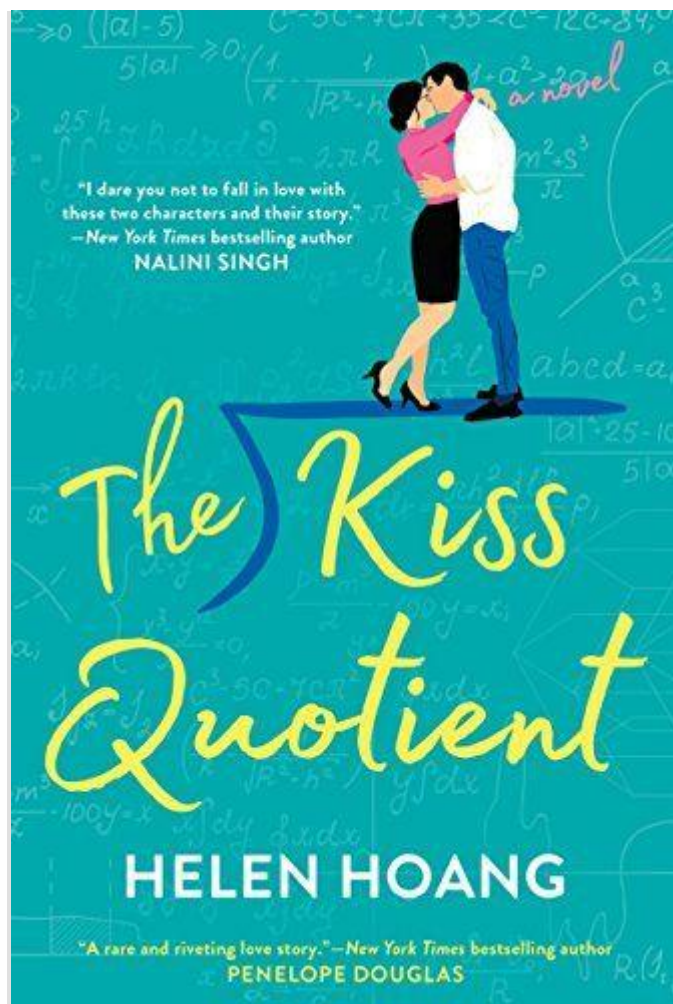
~~\$16.99~~

**\$10.64 (37% off)**

**SHOP NOW**

International bestselling book, *The Rosie Project*, is narrated by main character Don Tillman, a socially awkward genetics professor who's determined to find a wife. With the help of the "Wife Project," a 16-page scientific survey, he finds Rosie, an unlikely match who eventually wins his heart.

**20** *The Kiss Quotient* by Helen Hoang



~~\$15.00~~

**\$10.20 (32% off)**

**SHOP NOW**

This racy romance follows math wiz Stella Lane, as she strives to learn more about dating and sex by hiring escort Michael Phan, who she eventually falls madly in love with. Hoang's debut earned a spot as 2018's Goodreads Choice romance.